

MIN

2. Gay has improperly made it a substantive.
Here shall the pencil bid its colours flow,
And make a miniature creation grow. *Gay.*
MINIKIN. *adj.* 1. Small; diminutive. Used in slight contempt.
Sleepest, or wakest thou, jolly shepherd,
Thy sheep be in the corn;
And for one blast of thy minikin mouth,
Thy sheep shall take no harm. *Shakeſp. King Lear.*
MINIKIN. *n. f.* A small fort of pins.
MINIM. *n. f.* [from *minimus*, Lat.]
1. A small being; a dwarf.
Not all
Minims of nature; some of serpent-kind,
Wond'rous in length, and corpulence, involv'd
Their knaky folds, and added wings. *Milton's Par. Loſt.*
2. This word is applied, in the northern counties, to a small
fort of fiſh, which they pronounce *menim*. See MINNOW.
MINIMUS. *n. f.* [Latin.] A being of the leaſt ſize.
Get you gone, you dwarf,
You minimus of hind'ring knot-graſs made;
You bead, you acorn. *Shakeſp.*
MINION. *n. f.* [*mignon*, French.] A favourite; a darling; a
low dependant; one who pleaſes rather than benefits. A
word of contempt, or of ſlight and familiar kindneſs.
Minion, ſaid he; indeed I was a pretty one in thoſe days;
I ſee a number of lads that love you. *Sidney, b. ii.*
They were made great courtiers, and in the way of *min-*
nions, when advancement, the moſt mortal offence to envy,
ſtirred up their former friend to overthrow them. *Sidney.*
One, who had been a ſpecial minion of Andromanas, hated
us for having diſpoſſeſſed him of her heart. *Sidney, b. ii.*
Go rate thy minions;
Becomes it thee to be thus bold in terms
Before thy ſovereign. *Shakeſp. Henry VI.*
Duncan's horſes,
Beauteous and ſwift, the minions of the race,
Turn'd wild in nature. *Shakeſp. Macbeth.*
His company muſt do his minions grace,
Whiſt I at home ſtarve for a merry look. *Shakeſp.*
Edward ſent one army into Ireland; not for conqueſt, but
to guard the perſon of his minion Piers Gaveltion. *Davies.*
If a man ſhould launch into the hiſtory of human nature,
we ſhould find the very minions of princes linked in conſpira-
cies againſt their maſter. *L'Eſtrange's Fables.*
The drowly tyrant by his minions led,
To regal rage devotes ſome patriot's head. *Swift.*
MINIOUS. *adj.* [from *minium*, Latin.] Of the colour of red
lead or vermilion.
Some conceive, that the Red Sea receiveth a red and *min-*
ious tincture from ſprings that fall into it. *Brown.*
To MINISH. *v. a.* [from *diminiſh*; *minus*, Latin.] To leſſen;
to lop; to impair.
Ye ſhall not miniſh ought from your bricks of your daily
taſk. *Exod. v. 19.*
They are miniſhed and brought low through oppreſſion.
Pſal. cvii. 39.
Another law was to bring in the ſilver of the realm to the
mint, in making all clipt, miniſhed, or impaired coins of ſil-
ver, not to be current in payments. *Bacon's Henry VII.*
MINISTER. *n. f.* [*miniſter*, Latin; *miniſtre*, Fr.]
1. An agent; one who is employed to any end; one who acts
not by any inherent authority, but under another.
You, whom virtue hath made the princeſs of felicity, be
not the miniſter of ruin. *Sidney, b. ii.*
Rumble thy belly full; ſpit fire, ſpout rain,
Nor rain, wind, thunder, fire, are my daughters;
I tax not you, you elements, with unkindneſs:
But yet I call you ſervile miniſters,
That have with two pernicious daughters join'd
Your high-engender'd battles, 'gainſt a head
So old and white as this. *Shakeſp. King Lear.*
Th' infernal miniſter advanc'd,
Seiz'd the due victim. *Dryden's Theodore and Honoria.*
Other ſpirits govern'd by the will,
Shoot through their tracks, and diſtant muſcles fill;
This ſovereign, by his arbitrary nod,
Reſtrains or ſends his miniſters abroad. *Blackmore.*
2. One who is employed in the adminiſtration of govern-
ment.
Kings muſt be answerable to God, but the miniſters to
kings, whole eyes, ears, and hands they are, muſt be an-
ſwerable to God and man. *Bacon.*
3. One who ſerves at the altar; one who performs ſacerdotal
functions.
Epaphras, a faithful miniſter of Chriſt. *1 Col. i. 7.*
The miniſters are always preaching, and the governors
putting forth edicts againſt dancing and gaming. *Addiſon.*
The miniſters of the goſpel are eſpecially required to ſhine
as lights in the world, becauſe the diſtinction of their ſtation

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renders their conduct more obſervable; and the preſumption
of their knowledge, and the dignity of their office, gives a
peculiar force and authority to their example. *Rogers.*
4. A delegate; an official.
If wrongfully
Let God revenge; for I may never liſt
An angry arm againſt his miniſter. *Shakeſp. Rich. II.*
5. An agent from a foreign power, without the dignity of an
ambaffador.
To MINISTER. *v. a.* [*miniſtro*, Latin.] To give; to ſupply;
to afford.
All the cuſtoms of the Irith would miniſter occaſion of a
moſt ample diſcourſe of the original and antiquity of that
people. *Spencer on Ireland.*
Now he that miniſtereth ſeed to the ſower, both miniſter
bread for your food and multiply your ſeed ſown. *2 Cor. ix.*
The wounded patient bears
The artiſt's hand that miniſters the cure. *Ottway's Orphan.*
To MINISTER. *v. n.*
1. To attend; to ſerve in any office.
Certain of them had the charge of the miniſtering veſſels,
to bring them in and out by tale. *1 Chron. ix. 28.*
They which miniſter about holy things, live of the things
of the temple. *1 Cor. ix. 13.*
At table Eve
Miniſter'd naked, and their flowing cups
With pleaſant liquors crown'd. *Milton's Par. Loſt, b. v.*
2. To give medicines.
Can'ſt thou not miniſter to a mind diſeaſ'd,
Pluck from the memory a rooted ſorrow,
Raze out the written troubles of the brain? *Shak. Macb.*
3. To give ſupplies of things needful; to give aſſiſtance; to
contribute; to conduce.
Others miniſtered unto him of their ſubſtance. *Luke viii. 3.*
He who has a ſoul wholly void of gratitude, ſhould ſet his
ſoul to learn of his body; for all the parts of that miniſter to
one another. *South's Sermons.*
There is no truth which a man may more evidently make
out than the exiſtence of a God; yet he that ſhall con-
tent himſelf with things as they miniſter to us pleaſures and
paſſions, and not make enquiry a little farther into their
cauſes and ends, may live long without any notion of ſuch a
being. *Locke.*
Thoſe good men, who take ſuch pleaſure in relieving the
miſerable for Chriſt's ſake, would not have been leſs forward
to miniſter unto Chriſt himſelf. *Atterbury.*
Fasting is not abſolutely good, but relatively, and as it
miniſters to other virtues. *Smalridge's Sermons.*
4. To attend on the ſervice of God.
Whether prophely, let us prophely according to the pro-
portion of faith; or miniſtry, let us wait on our miniſtring,
Rom. xii. 7.
MINISTERIAL. *adj.* [from *miniſter*.]
1. Attendant; acting at command.
Underſtanding is required in a man; courage and vivacity
in the lion; ſervice, and miniſterial officiouſneſs, in the ox.
Brown's Vulgar Errors.
From eſſences unſeen, celeftial names,
Enlight'ning ſpirits, and miniſterial flames,
Liſt we our reaſon to that ſovereign cauſe,
Who bleſſ'd the whole with life. *Prior.*
2. Acting under ſuperior authority.
For the miniſterial officers in court there muſt be an eye
unto them. *Bacon's Advice to Villiers.*
Abſtinenſe, the apoſtrophe determines, is of no other real
value in religion, than as a miniſterial cauſe of moral effects;
as it recalls us from the world, and gives a ſerious turn to
our thoughts. *Rogers's Sermons.*
3. Sacerdotal; belonging to the eccleſiaſtics or their office.
Theſe ſpeeches of Jerom and Chryſoſtom plainly allude
unto ſuch miniſterial garments as were then in uſe. *Hooker.*
4. Pertaining to miniſters of ſtate, or perſons in ſubordinate au-
thority.
MINISTRY. *n. f.* [*miniſterium*, Lat.] Office; ſervice. This
word is now contracted to *miniſtry*, but uſed by *Milton* as
four ſyllables.
They that will have their chamber filled with a good ſcent,
make ſome odoriferous water be blown about it by their ſer-
vants mouths that are dextrous in that miniſtry. *Digby.*
This temple to frequent
With miniſtries due, and ſolemn rites. *Milton, b. xii.*
MINISTRAL. *adj.* [from *miniſter*.] Pertaining to a miniſter.
MINISTRANTS. *adj.* [from *miniſter*.] Attendant; acting at
command.
Him thrones, and pow'rs,
Princedom, and dominations miniſtrant,
Accompany'd to heav'n-gate. *Milton's Par. Loſt, b. x.*
Miniſtrant to their queen with buſy care,
Four faithful handmaids the ſoft rites prepare. *Pope.*
MINISTRATION.

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MINISTRATION. *n. f.* [from *miniſtro*, Latin.]
1. Agency; intervention; office of an agent delegated or com-
miſſioned by another.
God made him the inſtrument of his providence to me, as
he hath made his own land to him, with this difference, that
God, by his miniſtration to me, intends to do him a favour.
Taylor's living holy.
Though ſometimes effected by the immediate fiat of the
divine will, yet I think they are moſt ordinarily done by the
miniſtration of angels. *Hale's Origin of Mankind.*
2. Service; office; eccleſiaſtical function.
If the preſent miniſtration be more glorious than the for-
mer, the miniſter is more holy. *Atterbury's Sermons.*
MINIUM. *n. f.* [Latin.]
Melt lead in a broad earthen veſſel unglazed, and ſtir it
continually till it be calcined into a grey powder; this is
called the calx of lead; continue the fire, ſtirring it in the
ſame manner, and it becomes yellow; in this ſtate it is uſed
in painting, and is called mafficot or mafficot; after this put
it into a reverberatory furnace, and it will calcine further,
and become of a fine red, which is the common minium or
red lead: among the ancients minium was the name for cin-
nabar: the modern minium is uſed externally, and is excel-
lent in cleaning and healing old ulcers. *Hill's Mat. Med.*
MINISTRY. *n. f.* [contracted from *miniſtry*; *miniſterium*, Lat.]
1. Office; ſervice.
So far is an indifſtinction of all perſons, and, by conſe-
quence, an anarchy of all things, ſo far from being agree-
able to the will of God, declared in his great houſhold, the
world, and eſpecially in all the miniſtries of his proper houſe-
hold the church, that there was never yet any time, I be-
lieve, ſince it was a number, when ſome of its members
were not more ſacred than others. *Sprat's Sermons.*
2. Office of one ſet apart to preach; eccleſiaſtical function.
Their miniſtry perform'd, and race well run,
Their doctrine and their ſtory written left,
They die. *Milton's Par. Loſt, b. xii.*
Saint Paul was miraculoſly called to the miniſtry of the
goſpel, and had the whole doctrine of the goſpel from God
by immediate revelation; and was appointed the apoſtrophe of
the Gentiles for propagating it in the heathen world. *Locke.*
3. Agency; interpoſition.
The natural world he made after a miraculous manner;
but directs the affairs of it ever ſince by ſtanding rules, and
the ordinary miniſtry of ſecond cauſes.
The poets introduced the miniſtry of the gods, and taught
the ſeparate exiſtence of human ſouls. *Bentley's Sermons.*
4. Buſineſs.
He ſafe from loud alarms,
Abhor'd the wicked miniſtry of arms. *Dryden's Zen.*
5. Perſons employed in the public affairs of a ſtate.
I converſe in full freedom with many conſiderable men of
both parties; and if not in equal number, it is purely acci-
dental, as happening to have made acquaintance at court
more under one miniſtry than another. *Swift.*
MINNICK. *n. f.* Of this word I know not the preſiſe mean-
ing. It is not unlikely that *minnick* and *minx* are originally
the ſame word.
An aſs's noſe I fix'd on his head;
Anon his Thirſe muſt be answered,
And forth my minnick comes. *Shakeſp.*
MINNOW. *n. f.* [*minue*, French.] A very ſmall fiſh; a pink:
a corruption of *minim*, which ſee.
Hear you this triton of the minnows?
The minnow, when he is in perfect ſeaſon, and not ſick,
which is only preſently after ſpawning, hath a kind of dappled
or waved colour, like a panther, on his ſides, inclining to a
greeniſh and ſky-colour, his belly being milk-white, and his
back almoſt black or blackiſh: he is a ſharp biter at a ſmall
worm in hot weather, and in the Spring they make excellent
minnow tantes; for being waſhed well in ſalt, and their heads
and tails cut off, and their guts taken out, being fried with
yolks of eggs, primroſes and tanſy. *Walton's Angler.*
The nimble turning of the minnow is the perfection of *min-*
now fiſhing. *Walton's Angler.*
MINOR. *adj.* [Latin.]
1. Petty; inconſiderable.
If there are petty errors and minor lapſes, not conſider-
ably injurious unto faith, yet is it not ſate to condemn inferi-
our fallities. *Brown's Vulgar Errors, b. v.*
2. Leſs; ſmaller.
They altered this cuſtom from caſes of high concernment
to the moſt trivial debates, the minor part ordinarily entering
their proteſt. *Clarendon.*
The difference of a third part in ſo large and collective an
account is not ſtrange, if we conſider how differently they
are ſet forth in *minor* and leſs miſtakeable numbers.
Brown's Vulgar Errors.
MINOR. *n. f.*
1. One under age; one whoſe youth cannot yet allow him to
manage his own affairs.

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King Richard the Second, the fiſt ten years of his reign;
was a minor. *Davies on Ireland.*
He and his muſe might be minors, but the libertines are
full grown. *Collier's View of the Stage.*
Long as the year's dull circle ſeems to run,
When the brisk minor pants for twenty-one. *Pope.*
The nobleſt blood of England having been ſhed in the
grand rebellion, many great families became extinct, or ſup-
ported only by minors. *Swift.*
A minor or infant cannot be ſaid to be contumacious, be-
cauſe he cannot appear as a defendant in court, but by his
guardian. *Atterbury's Parergon.*
2. The ſecond or particular propoſition in the fyllogiſm.
The ſecond or minor propoſition was, that this kingdom
hath cauſe of juſt fear of overthrow from Spain. *Bacon.*
He ſuppoſed that a philoſopher's brain was like a foreſt,
where ideas are ranged like animals of ſeveral kinds; that
the major is the male, the minor the female, which copulate
by the middle term, and engender the concluſion. *Arbuthnot.*
To MINORATE. *v. a.* [from *minor*, Lat.] To leſſen; to di-
miniſh. A word not yet admitted into the language.
This it doth not only by the advantageous aſſiſtance of a
tube, but by ſhewing in what degrees diſtance *minorates* the
object. *Glanville's Sceſſ.*
MINORATION. *n. f.* [from *minorate*.] The act of leſſening;
diminution; decreaſe. A word not admitted.
Bodies emit virtue without abatement of weight, as is moſt
evident in the loadſtone, whoſe efficiencies are communicable
without a *minoration* of gravity. *Brown's Vulgar Errors.*
We hope the mercies of God will conſider our degenerated
integrity unto ſome *minoration* of our offences. *Brown.*
MINORITY. *n. f.* [*minorité*, Fr. from *minor*, Latin.]
1. The ſtate of being under age.
I mov'd the king, my maſter, to ſpeak in the behalf of
my daughter, in the minority of them both. *Shakeſp.*
He is young, and his minority
Is put into the truſt of Richard Gloſter. *Shakeſp.*
Theſe changes in religion ſhould be ſtaid, until the king
were of years to govern by himſelf: this the people appre-
hending worſe than it was, a queſtion was raiſed, whether,
during the king's minority, ſuch alterations might be made or
no. *Hayward's Edw. VI.*
Henry the Eighth, doubting he might die in the minority of
his ſon, procur'd an act to paſs, that no ſtatute made during
the minority of the king ſhould bind him or his ſucceſſors, ex-
cept it were confirmed by the king at his full age. But the
fiſt act that paſſed in king Edward the Sixth's time, was a
repeal of that former act; at which time nevertheless the
king was minor. *Bacon's Henry VII.*
If there be evidence, that it is not many ages ſince nature
was in her minority, this may be taken for a good proof that
ſhe is not eternal. *Burnet's Theory of the Earth.*
Their counſels are warlike and ambitious, though ſome-
thing tempered by the minority of their king. *Temple.*
2. The ſtate of being leſs.
From this narrow time of geſtation may enſue a minority,
or ſmallneſs in the excluſion. *Brown's Vulgar Errors, b. iii.*
3. The ſmaller number: as, the minority held for that queſtion
in oppoſition to the majority.
MINOTAUR. *n. f.* [*minotaure*, French; *minos* and *taurus*.] A
monſter invented by the poets; half man and half bull, kept
in Dædalus's labyrinth.
Thou may'ſt not wander in that labyrinth,
There minotaurs, and ugly treaſons lurk. *Shakeſp.*
MINSTER. *n. f.* [*munſtere*, Saxon.] A monaſtery; an eccle-
ſiaſtical fraternity; a cathedral church. The word is yet re-
tained at York and Lichfield.
MINSTREL. *n. f.* [*menſtreil*, Spaniſh; *monſtrellus*, low Latin.]
A muſician; one who plays upon inſtruments.
Hark how the miniſtrel's 'gin to ſhrill aloud
Their merry muſick that reſounds from far,
The pipe, the tabor, and the trembling croud,
That well agree withouten breach or jar. *Spenser's Epithal.*
I will give you the miniſtrel.
—Then I will give you the ſerving creature. *Shakeſp.*
I to the vulgar am become a jeſt;
Eſteemed as a miniſtrel at a feaſt. *Sandys's Paraphraſe.*
Theſe fellows
Were once the miniſtrels of a country ſhow;
Follow'd the prizes through each paltry town,
By trumpet-cheeks and bloated faces known.
Often our ſeers and poets have confeſs'd,
That muſick's force can tame the furious beaſt;
Can make the wolf, or foaming boar refrain
His rage; the lion drop his creſted mane,
Attentive to the ſong; the lynx forget
His wrath to man, and lick the miniſtrel's feet. *Prior.*
MINSTRELSEY. *n. f.* [from *miniſtrel*.]
1. Muſick; inſtrumental harmony.
Apollo's ſelf will envy at his play,
And all the world applaud his miniſtreſſey. *Davies.*
That